

And 7 of the 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek . The dates of the Grants range from 1795 to 1822.

After the formation of Pocahontas County , there are recorded in the Recorded in the Land Grant books of Pocahontas County , 44 Land Grants or Patents Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, to land Grantees situate on the Knapps-Creek and 15 of the Grants spell it K-n-a-p- Creek , and 29 spell it N-a-p-s Creek The dates of the Grants range from 1822 to 1860.

Of the 73 land Grants Issued on the waters of Knapps Creek 37 spell it with a " K " and 36 spell it with an " N " The vacant lands on the Knapps Creek include were all taken up prior the Civil War. This does not include the Grants issued ~~issued~~ while under the regime of Augusta County, which was then referred to as being on Ewings Creek . While under the regime of Bath County a Grant was issued to Andrew Reid bearing date of 1794 , and gives the local description as being on the waters of Ewings Run ; and to Archibald Stewart bearing date of 1800 on the waters of Ewings Creek , which appears to be about the last of the Grants that mention Ewings Creek.

The first Survey made in Pocahontas County was made by General ^{Andrew} Lewis . bearing date of October the 11th 1751 for 480 Acres situated on both sides of the Greenbrier River and states being at the mouth of Ewing Creek. And no doubt ^{that} but this the first writting of Ewing Creek . This land Grant of Andrew Lewis is found recorded in Greenbrier Grant Book No 1 at Page 3.

The old land surveyors would constantly refer to Knapps Creek " as once called Ewings Creek " It appears that the old surveyors who made the surveys for the pioneer settlers on the Knapps Creek , were of a different opinion as to the spelling of the " Knapp? As a matter of fact it was shifted from " Ewings " Creek to Knapps Creek in honor of a man by the name of Nap Gregory or a man by the name of Caleb Knapp. There appears to be a misunderstanding among the early settlers , and the settlers of the Knapps Creek Valley , even at the present time as to which of the two should have the honor of being the name-sake of the Knapps-Creek; It appears that neither of them owned land on the Knapps Creek .

There are many very interesting letters written in regard to the name of Knapps Creek ; and the following letters are hereby submitted for their consideration in regard to ^{the} name of Knapps Creek, which has been a question of argument.

In November 1940^{28th}, the following was written in the Pocahontas Times .to - Mr Cal Price , and his reply.

Dear Mr Price:

Some writers state that Knapps Creek was named for Knapp Gregory, an early settler in that locality , while others claim that it was named for a man named Knapp who came into that section prior to 1749.

I would like to know if you have any information on the subject as to which might be correct . If it was named ~~from~~ from a Mr, Knapp, do you know the ~~Christian~~ Christian name? There was a Caleb Knapp in Greenbrier County , as early as 1789, but I do not ^{know} his parentage.

Yours very truly.

Wilma Beard Harper.

Elkins WVa.

The reply to my cousin Wilma Beard Harper is, that Knapps Creek ~~was~~ was named for Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory; You will find his name in the Chalkley Records of Augusta County. If I remember right, it will be in the 1760,s

In the Earliest records _ Col. John Stuart in 1751- the name is Ewings Creek. In the Lewis survey of that date at Marlinton, a line calls for passing ~~o~~ over the Ewing House , some where between the low place ~~be~~ on Buckley Mountain, near Stillwell to a point not far from the residence of Z.S.Smith Jr,

Later records refer to the Creek by the name of Naps; later records have it Knapps Creek .

Some time about a century ago the family of Caleb Knapp moved to Pocahontas County from Greenbrier County . I fix the time by the fact that one of the daughters of Caleb Knapp ~~was~~ Mrs Ellen Buzzard , was born in Greenbrier county, she died a few years since at the advanced age of 103 years.

Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory had his hunters camp on Naps Creek. I have always had the impression his camp was near the present site of the Westminster Church.

The ^{tradition} tradition that Naphtal~~em~~ Gregory was killed by white outlaws dressed up

He was in camp at the time, and his dogs were out chasing a bear. The robbers dragged the body some distance from the camp to hide it in a sink hole. Before the body was disposed of, the pack of dogs returned from the chase, took up the trail, and attacked the robbers so fiercely that they had to kill the dogs in self defense.

How the particulars of the crime ever leaked out was never explained to me. Maybe one of the robbers told about it in later years.

What I do know is I have been assured by ancient colored people, that in the full of the hunters moon those who are born with a cowl, can hear Gregorys dogs running a trail in full cry, to end in howls and growls at the sink hole. "

The following letter is from the Hon A.E Ewing, of Grand Haven Michigan.
printed in the Pochontas Times Dec 12th 1840.

Dear Mr, Price:

I was interested in Wilma Beard Harper,s inquiry about the godfather of Knapps Creek, and your reply in The Times of November 28th.

Evidently some geographer of pioneer days became confused in his nomenclature. Just likely Napthalem Gregory was only known as " Nap " I submit that " Naptha" would have been more illuminating. The geographer who initiated the name Knapp, either ignored the Nap Gregory,s right to the honor, or accorded the honor to Caleb Knapp or some othe Knapp.

As you say Caleb Knapp is listed as an old timer of Greenbrier and Pocahontas. I do not know the geneology of the Knapps of Western Virginia, bu I know there was an Abraham Knapp who married Rachel Cherington, daughter of William and Margaret Hank-Cherington. Not positive, but I believe they were Rockingham County people, They moved into Greenbrier County, just when I do npt know. They had a son, Moses Knapp who was born in 1812 and who married Eliza Hank, daughter of Caleb Hank. Caleb Hank was a Rockinghamer and moved to Greenbrier county, now Monroe with his parents about 1789 and to Gallia county Ohio, in 1846, where he settled among his Cherington kinsman.

William C. Gaines, 75, a prosperous farmer of Lathrope, Missouri, is a grand son

of said Moses Knapp. I do not know if any of the above named Knapps ever lived on Knapps (Nap) Creek.

Pardon my family pride for suggesting that Ewings Creek ought to be made the official designation of the much named stream. The earliest official mention ever made of it was " Ewings Creek " The man who gave it that name was James Ewing a Scotch Irishman born about 1715 , and who came to Western Virginia about 1736. He had a farm on Jackson river near the influx of Muddy Creek Run only a few miles from the divide and the head waters of the stream that bore his name as late as 1770 when he sold his claim to Moses Moore for two steel traps and two pounds sterling, according to historian Price. It is believed that his family, two sons, John and William, and three daughters, were born on the Jackson River farm , and that they moved to their new home across the the divide shortly after 1760 and resided on the stream which bore his name until about 1770 when he sold out to Moses Moore and moved on down to the Swago farm lands now known as the McClintic farm . I picture my great grand father James Ewing as not only as a farmer , but much of a hunter and trapper, and that he chose the flats of said creek as a home for his boys and girls while he brought home deers, bears, fish and fur.

As long as there is a question ^{about the} names of "Knapp" and "Nap", why not return to the original name and call it Ewing Creek in honor of a sturdy old pioneer, who did his bit toward the early settlement of present Pocahontas County

A.E.Ewing.

Grand Haven , Michagan.

The following letter was written by Mr, J .C . Harper of Knapps Creek and printed in the Pocahontas Times of December 19th 1940.

KKNAPPS CREEK AGAIN.

Dear Mr, Price: (Editor of the Pocahontas Times)

I was interested in Wilma Beard Harper, s inquiry in your issue of November/ 28th as to who Knapps Creek was named for. I also noted with interest your answer in the same issue.

I read in the last issue of the Times, date date of Dec 12th, an article of Mr, ^I Ewing, ^I am of the opinion like Mr Ewing, that there is and probably always ^{Will} be a question as to the man who should be honored with the name. However I should not be at home now, if I should wake up some morning and find I was living on Ewing Creek. Being of the fourth generation of the ^Harpers who have lived here in the heart of the valley , I beg to pass on the following information :

When a mere lad , fifty or sixty years ago, I well remember of hearing my grand father say, that Knapps Creek was named in honor of a man by the name of Knapp who lived on the bank near where the public road now is and opposite the present home of Ward Cleek. Also when a boy I enjoyed sitting by the open wood fire, and listen to my mother tell us of the past history of our local community, many of the things she stated were stored in my mind . This was in the days when children were anxious to listen to older folks and were taught that a still tongue made a wise head. My great grandmother died in 1870 at a ripe old age. The first few years of my mothers married life were spent with her . I have heard my mother make statements ~~I heard my mother~~ in regard to this Mr Knapp, same as I heard grandfather and she would say grandmother told me so . And from this history which is not written I am convinced of the location of where this man lived . And it was never mentioned to me but what the name was spelled Knapp. It may have been Caleb Knapp.

Now as to Napthalem Gregory , in my mind he can have the honor of the old Spur road, which crossed the mountain , near where H.I.Shinaberry now lives. This was called Nap, s Spur Road and was very much used prior to buggy days. Some wagons and traveled this road in the early days .

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To verify the name, I have in my possession a grant of land from the Commonwealth of Virginia to my great grand father , Henry Harper, dated 1825, signed by John Tyler Governor. In the courses of ^{the} land trees are called for on this road mentioned as " Nap,s Spur Road " This road leaves Little Back Creek near the old Chestnut home, following a long ridge to the top of the Allegheny Mountain , then following the top for some distance around the head waters of Laurel Run Creek , thence around the East end of the Little Mountain and down along the ridge to the Knapps Creek Valley near the site of Harpers Mill. It is still evident that a long time ago considerable digging was done on this road at several places.

J.C.Harper.

Huntersville, West Va.

CUMMINS CREEK:- Cummins Creek is a branch of Knapps Creek that gives rise near the top of the Brushy Mountain it flows practically due North for a distance of 6 miles to join Knapps Creek near Huntersville

It has a total fall of 1000 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 166.6 feet, and has a drainage area of 11 square miles.

Cummins Creek began settlement about the time of the formation of Pocahontas and was so named from a pioneer by the name of Cummins.

LAUREL CREEK :- Laurel Creek with its numerous branches is Knapps Creek largest tributary from a stand point of volume. Laurel Creek has its source high up on Allegheny Mountain only 3.6 miles (air line distance) from its mouth but flows in a southerly direction to Rimel where it is joined by Cochran Creek, with its numerous tributaries from the south, Thence it flows ~~South~~ North west, cutting a gorge across the the north end of Middle Mountain. and is joined by Doutharty Creek also from the south, one mile south of Minnehaha Springs, where it enters Knapps Creek

The principal branches of the Laurel Creek are Doutharty Creek with an entire length of 6.3 miles with a total fall of 760 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 120.6 feet. and has a drainage area basin of 11.65 square miles. ~~Cochran~~ Cochran creek with an entire length of 4.9 miles with a total fall of 950 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 193.8 feet it ~~has~~ has a drainage basin of 9.72 square miles other minor branches are Riders Run, 1.7 miles long. Big Sandy Run, 1.9 miles long Two Lick Run, 1.4 miles long. Lost Bottom Run 1.7 miles long, Widemouth Run, 2.5 miles long, Laurel Run 1.7 miles long, Lackridge Run 1.4 miles long.

The main branches of Laurel Creek were so named as follows; Douthart Creek was named from Michael Daugherty, one of the early pioneer settlers of the Knapps Creek Valley his home was on the lands now owned by Ward Cleek; He settled there about the year of 1770.

The Cochran Creek was so named in honor of the pioneer family of Cochrans who settled in the County while under the regime of Bath County Virginia, Laurel Creek has a total drainage area of 30.68 square miles.

NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County.

Chapter Three.

Part (1) Sec (D).

*Roscoe H. Brown,
June 28 - 1941*

BROWNS CREEK; Browns Creek has its source in several in the small branches that give rise in the Hill Country North West of the Knapps Creek, on the Browns-Mountain locally known as the "Horse Ridge" a part of the Browns Mountain.

This stream flows South-West and drains all the section between the Thorny Creek, and the Knapps Creek; It has an entire length of 6 miles with a total fall of 525 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 87.5 feet. and has a drainage area basin of 10. square miles

Its principal source is in a very large spring locally known as the Peter Mc Carty Spring which is located on a branch of the said Browns Creek 0.7 mile north-west of Mt Tabor School, is largely a calcium and magnesium carbonate water issuing near the Helderberg-Bossardville Limestone contact, the elevation of the spring being approximately 2500 feet. A very large and constant flow of sparkling clear water pours out the year round and appears to have but very slight if any change of temperature through the year.

The Browns Creek joins the Knapps Creek near Huntersville, which was the former County Seat of Pocahontas County, and near the junction of Cummins Creek with the conjunction of these branches and Knapps Creek, made an ideal location for the County Seat of Pocahontas County, with the road way ^{leading} down Browns Creek, down and up Knapps Creek, and down Cummins Creek,

Browns Creek, and Browns Mountain, received its name from a John Brown from near Parnassus Augusta County Virginia, who moved to Montgomery County, was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, who owned much of the lands by prescription in the western part of Augusta County, and a part of what is now Pocahontas County

This right of prescription was the first right or privilege, to secure lands which right was granted by the Commonwealth of the State of Virginia, for services in the Revolutionary War.

ARTIFICIAL BODIES OF WATER: In Pocahontas County)

At the present time there are only two bodies of Artificial Water in Pocahontas, The Seneca Lake which is in the bounds of the State Seneca Forest on the waters of the Little Thorny Creek. This Artificial Lake was constructed by the C.C.C. Camp which was located in the Seneca Forest, about the year of 1934. This small lake covers about seven acres of ground is about 15 feet deep is provided with small boats it is a great swimming resort ^{six} ~~four~~ cabins are built for visitors to use. This is a real beautiful little artificial lake and many tourist visit this place every year. It is situated in Game refuge of the Seneca Park; many Deer, and wild Turkeys, and Grouse, may be seen along the road going to the Lake. This lake is reached by a hard gravelled surfaced road with an easy grade and graceful curves, crossing a spur of the Thomas Mountain to the Little Thorny Creek

At the Seneca artificial Lake constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps a recreational area has been developed into one of the most appealing outdoors vacation spots in the State. The high elevation adds to the comfort of a summer visit. Six cabins at the lake provide adequate lodgings. Boating, and swimming, and fishing are possible in the Lake, and a special playground for children has been constructed near the cabin area. Those who prefer water sports on the River can obtain cottages on the banks of the Greenbrier, at the western edge of the forest, Seneca is reached by a secondary road leading from Huntersville on State Route No 28

Seneca State Forest contains 11050 acres is situated in the heart of Pocahontas County's white pine area, and has a long history as a state forest and game refuge. As a result, the population of deer in this area today probably is the greatest in the State, further large numbers of squirrels, grouse, and other game are to be found, despite controlled shooting during the last two hunting seasons.

In accordance with Seneca's functions as a timber farm, experiment of Chestnut plantings to develop a blight-resistant species, are of more than usual interest. White Pine stand improvement other forestry practices can be readily observed.

The name of the Seneca State Forest was given it by the State Game Commission at the request of Hon - Andrew Price, in honor of the famous Seneca Indians which was one of the tribe of the Iroquois Indians formerly of the western New York; the most numerous and warlike of the Five Nations. They still number over three thousand, the greater portion being in New York, and small bands being in Ontario and Oklahoma.

The Seneca Indians; from whom the Seneca Forest was so named, formed a war path after a treaty at Albany in the year of 1722, which ^{had} ~~was~~ confirmed the act of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, making the Allegheny Mountain the division line between the lands allotted to the Indians, and the lands that could be settled by the white people, a line that was observed with more or less fidelity until about the time of the Revolution.

A well-traveled road was established by the Seneca Tribe the most powerful of the Five Nations over which they traveled from the waters of the St. Lawrence to the northern part of Georgia, this Seneca trail passes through Pocahontas County, and they were at all times informed of the acts of the pioneer settlers, in breaking the agreement to remain on the eastern side of the Allegheny Mountain.

The old Seneca War Path is still visible in many places, it is plain to be seen on the ridge north west of Marlinton; the path way is worn down deep in the earth, and large trees are growing up in the center of the old Seneca Indian trail.

ARTIFICIAL LAKE IN WATOGA STATE PARK.

The Watoga State Park is situated in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County. This is the largest of the State Parks, from the beginning a play area of great popularity, Watoga's luxuriant foliage and wild flower growth has enhanced a mountain setting ideal for vacation outings. The Greenbrier River, which many visitors cross by a picturesque ferry ^{at} ~~at~~ Seebert, is the boundary which sets Watoga apart from humdrum activities. Miles of motor roads, as in all state parks and state forests, lead to cabin areas and administration headquarters.

At the headquarters, situated above a 11-acre artificial lake, is a dining room, a park store, curio shop and superintendent's office. Boats and bicycles may be rented. The twenty five cabins, divided in two general cabin groups, seem lost in the vastness of the area. A new picnic ground area and playground have been completed. Work on a concrete swimming pool, one of the largest of such pools ~~have~~ in the State is being pushed during winter in the expectation that it may be ready for use during the coming summer. A riding academy provides gaited horses for rides along the bridle paths. A large herd of Deer has made this park its home. The profusion of growing things led to the establishment of a memorial arboretum under sponsorship of the West Virginia Academy of Science, where visitors may see scores of varied and wild flowers and other native wild plants in their native habitat.

This Artificial Lake which is situated on the Island Lick Run in the north eastern part of Park area it covers more than 11 acres and is approximately 30 feet deep it is clear at all times, it is supplied with Rainbow, and Brook Trout, and Bass, and a colony of Beaver is located at the head of the lake. This Lake was called KILLBUCK Lake after an Indian Chieftain of the Shawnee tribe who gave the pioneer settlers trouble, for a long series of years and when hostilities ceased went to his home in Ohio,